

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

--1. (Currently Amended) A network system characterized in that:

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~~the network system~~ connects with plurality of process portions that can mutually send and receive a message ~~specified~~ with no specified destination and a message ~~specified with~~ specifying a specific process portion and that can change ~~their~~ states to either of first and second states, so as to form a first-state process portion and a second-state process portion, respectively, wherein

the network system ~~having~~ comprises:

a first-state process portion that stores ~~[[the]]~~ a second-state process portion storing the first-state process portion; and

a second-state process portion that stores ~~[[the]]~~ only the one first-state process portion, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein

there is only one process portion in the first state.

--2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The network system according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

multiple second-state process portions share information about each other, ~~wherein~~

one of the multiple second-state process ~~portion~~ portions copies information about itself to the first-state process portion, and

another of the multiple second-state process ~~portion~~

portions reads information about that one second-state process portion from the first-state process portion.

--3. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 2 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

information describing information for accessing the process portions is copied to the first-state process portion for sharing the information describing information for accessing process portions among the other process portions.

--4. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

~~the network system allows~~ means for allowing process portions to mutually send and receive the message ~~specified~~ with no specified destination and the message ~~specified with~~ specifying a specific process portion in a group ~~comprising~~ including the first-state process portion and a second-state process portion storing ~~[[the]]~~ only the first-state process portion, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein

~~the network system allows~~ process portions in different groups ~~[[to]]~~ can send and receive only the message ~~specified~~ with specifying a specific process portion.

--5. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 4 ~~characterized in that~~:

~~the network system exchanges~~ further comprising means for exchanging messages between the first-state process portion in

one group and a first-state process portion in another group to determine ~~[[the]]~~ only one first-state process common between the both groups.

--6. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that:~~ wherein

AJ the process portion ~~[[has]]~~ comprises error detection means to detect a communication error.

--7. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 6 ~~characterized in that:~~

a wherein the first-state process portion removes a second-state process portion from ~~[[a]]~~ storage when the first-state process portion detects a communication error with the second-state process portion.

--8. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 6 ~~characterized in that:~~

a wherein the second-state process portion changes its state to the first state when the second-state process portion detects a communication error with ~~[[a]]~~ the first-state process portion.

--9. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that:~~ wherein at least one of

the process ~~portion~~ portions has time lapse detection means for detecting an elapsed time.

--10. (Currently Amended) A network system according to claim 9 ~~characterized in that:~~

a wherein the first-state process portion removes [[a]] second-state process portion from a storage when the first-state process portion detects no communication with the second-state process portion for a specified period of time.

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--11. (Currently Amended) A network control method ~~characterized in that:~~

~~the network control method controls for controlling~~ a network system connecting with a plurality of process portions that can mutually send and receive a message ~~specified~~ with no specified destination and a message ~~specified with~~ specifying a specific process portion and can change ~~their~~ states to either of first and second states so as to form a first-state process portion and a second-state process portion respectively, wherein the method comprising the steps of:

controlling a first-state process portion ~~stores the~~ to store a second-state process portion storing the first-state process portion,

causing a second-state process portion ~~stores the~~ to store only the one first-state process portion, [[and]] so that

the network contains one first-state process portion.

--12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network control method according to claim 11 ~~characterized in that wherein:~~

multiple second-state process portions share information about each other, ~~wherein~~

information about one of the multiple second-state process ~~portion~~ portions is copied to the first-state process portion, and

another of the multiple second-state process ~~portion~~ portions reads information about that the one second-state process portion from the first-state process portion.

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--13. (Currently Amended). [[A]] The network control method according to claim 12 ~~characterized in that wherein:~~

the plurality of process portions share information describing information for accessing the plurality of process portions by copying that information to the first-state process portion.

--14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network control method according to claim 11 ~~characterized in that further comprising:~~

~~it is possible to~~ mutually send sending and receive receiving the message ~~specified~~ with no specified destination and the message ~~specified with~~ specifying a specific process portion within a group ~~comprising~~ consisting of the first-state process portion and a second-state process portion storing [[the]] only the first-state process portion, and

~~it is possible to send~~ sending and receive receiving only the message ~~specified with~~ specifying a specific process portion between process portions in different groups.

--15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network control method according to claim 14 ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

A2 exchanging messages ~~are exchanged~~ between the first-state process portion in one group and a first-state process portion in another group to determine [[the]] only one first-state process common between the both groups.

--16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network control method according to claim 11 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

a first-state process portion removes a second-state process portion from [[a]] storage when the first-state process portion detects a communication error with the second-state process portion.

--17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network control method according to claim 11 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

a second-state process portion changes its state to the first state when the second-state process portion detects a communication error with [[a]] the first-state process portion.

--18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network control method according to claim 11 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

[[a]] the first-state process portion removes a second-state process portion from [[a]] storage when the first-state

process portion detects no communication with the second-state process portion for a specified period of time.

--19. (Currently Amended) A signal sender/receiver characterized ~~in that the signal sender/receiver having~~ comprising:

A2 message generation means ~~that can at least to~~ to generate a message ~~specified with~~ specifying a specific destination and a message ~~specified with no~~ specified destination;

message analysis means ~~that~~ to receive a transmitted message and analyze its contents;

state control means ~~that~~ to change the signal sender/receiver to a first or second state depending on whether another networked apparatus is available ~~or not~~ and ~~[[it]]~~ is in the first or second state; and

storage means ~~that can~~ to store information about the signal sender/receiver and other apparatuses~~[[;]]~~ of the network,

wherein the signal sender/receiver changes to the second state and stores ~~[[the]]~~ only the other first-state apparatus storing information about the signal sender/receiver when the other first-state apparatus is connected to the network,

and wherein the signal sender/receiver stores information about another second-state apparatus when the second-state apparatus is connected to the network.

--20. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The signal sender/receiver according to claim 19 ~~characterized in that~~

wherein:

the signal sender/receiver copies information about itself to the only other first-state apparatus storing information about the signal sender/receiver and reads information about another second-state apparatus stored in the other first-state apparatus ~~as required~~ when the other first-state apparatus is connected to the network.

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--21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 20 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the signal sender/receiver copies information describing information for accessing other networked apparatuses to the other first-state apparatus and reads the information describing ~~the access~~ information accessing stored in the first-state apparatus as required.

--22. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 21 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the signal sender/receiver can mutually send or receive the message ~~specified with~~ specifying a specific destination and the message ~~specified~~ with no specified destination when the signal sender/receiver is connected within a group of the first-state apparatus and a second-state apparatus storing [[the]] only the first-state apparatus or can send or receive only the message ~~specified~~ with a specified specific

destination from an apparatus in a different group.

--23. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 22 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

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the signal sender/receiver, when in the first state, exchanges messages with a first-state apparatus in another group to determine the only first-state apparatus common between the both groups.

--24. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 22 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the signal sender/receiver, when in the second state, transfers a message from a first-state apparatus in another group to [[a]] the first-state apparatus in a group to which the signal sender/receiver belongs.

--25. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 19 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the signal sender/receiver [[has]] further comprises error detection means for detecting communication errors.

--26. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 25 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the signal sender/receiver, when in the first state, detects a communication error with a second-state apparatus ~~to~~ remove the signal sender/receiver removes the second-state apparatus from [[a]] storage.

--27. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 25 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the signal sender/receiver, when in the second state, detects a communication error with a first-state apparatus to change ~~the signal sender/receiver~~ itself to the first state.

--28. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 19 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the signal sender/receiver [[has]] includes time lapse detection means for detecting an elapsed time.

--29. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The signal sender/receiver according to claim 19 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

when the signal sender/receiver, ~~when~~ in the first state, detects no communication with a second-state apparatus for a specified period of time ~~to remove the signal sender/receiver~~ removes the second-state apparatus from [[a]] storage.